

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 AGR-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00

PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 OIC-02 AF-06 ARA-10 NEA-09

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USDA/FAS - PMACKIE

TREASURY - MCHAVES

EB/TA - TO'HERRON

STR - HWILLIAMS

COMMERCE - DSCHECHTY (INFO)

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O R 122217Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL MEAT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

REF: (A) GENEVA 1530, (B) STATE 244740, (C) GENEVA 1641

(D) GENEVA 1671 NOTAL

ROME FOR FODAG

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1. DEPARTMENT CONCURS MISSION RECOMMENDATION OF KOENIG AND SPRUCE (REF C).DELEGATE TOMARCH 13 MEETING SHOULD BE GUIDED BY TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTATIVE GROUP, BY US VIEWS CONTAINED REFTEL, AND FOLLOWING GUIDANCE RELATED TO SPECIFIC ITEMS MENTIONED IN SECRETARIAT'S INVITATION.

(A) US BELIEVES THAT MOST IMPORTANT INITIAL ACTIVITY OF GROUP SHOULD BE CONSULTATION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON NATIONAL POLICIES DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY AFFECTING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN LIVESTOCK AND MEAT, PRIMARILY OF THE BOVINE TYPE (CATTLE, BEEF AND VEAL). SPECIFICALLY,

EACH MAJOR TRADING COUNTRY (AND IN THE CASE OF THE EC, THE COMMISSION) SHOULD PRESENT) ANALYSES OF EFFECTS OF NATIONAL POLICIES ON INTERNAL CONSUMPTION, PRICES AND EXTERNAL TRADE; (2) REPORT ON EXISTING TRADE MEASURES; (3) SHORT TERM NATIONAL FORECASTS (3-6 MONTHS) OF DOMESTIC PRICES.PRODUCTION,EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND CONSUMPTION (OR CHANGES IN STOCKS) . UNDERSTANDING OF SHORT TERM NATIONAL

TRENDS AND OUTLOOK COULD ASSIST COUNTRIES IN FORMULATING MORE MUTUALLY HARMONIOUS POLICIES DESIGNED TO ALLEVIATE SHORT TERM PROBLEMS. AS SECOND STEP, COUNTRIES MIGHT CONSIDER THOROUGH JOINT-REVIEW OF MEDIUM TERM (2-3 YEAR) PROJECTIONS, DRAWING ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION STUDIES, IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY IN ADVANCE AND DISCUSS CORRECTIVE MEASURES TO AVERT, MAJOR SUPPLY/ DEMAND IMBALANCES STEMMING FROM EXCESSIVE LIVESTOCK INVENTORY BUILDUPS OR LIQUIDATIONS;AND OTHER FORESEEABLE DEVELOPMENTS.

(B) THE US BELIEVES THAT THE GROUP ITSELF NEED NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN DATA COLLECTION SINCE THE FAO AND OECD ALREADY PERFORM THIS FUNCTION, AND MARKET DATA ARE AVAILABLE ON A CURRENT BASIS FROM COMMERCIAL AND GOVERNMENT SOURCES. THE GROUP MIGHT, HOWEVER, MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DISSEMINATION OF OECD DATA TO INTERESTED NON-OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES. OTHERWISE, THE US BELIEVES THAT THE EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON POLICY AND ECONOMIC AND MARKET PROJECTIONS (AS DISCUSSED ABOVE) RATHER THAN DATA COLLECTION.
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(C) THE DELEGATE'S POSITION ON THE FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS MAY BE FLEXIBLE. TO SOME EXTENT, THIS ISSUE DEPENDS ON THE LEVEL AT WHICH THE GROUP DECIDES TO MEET. IN GENERAL, THE US WOULD PREFER THAT THE GROUP MEET AT A WORKING LEVEL NO MORE FREQUENTLY THAN QUARTERLY, WITH SENIOR OFFICIAL POLICY LEVEL MEETINGS ON AD HOC BASIS, AS NEEDED, OR ON SCHEDULE OF NO MORE THAN ONE MEETING PER

YEAR.

(D) AS INDICATED IN TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ABOVE, THE GROUP SHOULD DRAW ON THE WORK OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE PURPOSES OF ANALYSIS AND DISSEMINATION OF DATA. THE US WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THE ATTENDANCE OF PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS (IN OBSERVER CAPACITY) AT WORKING LEVEL MEETINGS OR TO THE INCLUSION OF INDUSTRY ADVISORS TO GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS.

2. SINCE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES OF GROUP SHOULD, IN OUR VIEW, BE LIMITED TO ARRANGING FOR DISSEMINATION OF REPORTS AND STUDIES OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS, WE DO NOT SEE NECESSITY FOR CREATION OF SEPARATE SECRETARIAT AND STAFF. WE HOPE WORK OF GROUP CAN BE ADMINISTERED BY GATT SECRETARIAT WITH EXISTING RESOURCES.

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3. RE REF (D) JUST RECEIVED, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES AUSTRALIAN VIEW THAT FIRST TASK IS COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF STATISTICS NOT NECESSARILY INCONSISTENT WITH US EMPHASIS ON ANALYSIS OF SHORT TERM OUTLOOK NOTED PARA 1 ABOVE. IF STATISTICS INTERPRETED TO MEAN DATA RELATING TO SHORT TERM PROJECTIONS, AND IF GROUP OBTAINS COMMITMENT OF MEMBER COUNTRIES TO SUPPLY SUCH INFORMATION (INCLUDING ACTUAL PROJECTIONS) ON REGULAR BASIS, US OBJECTIVES WOULD BE MET. US DOES NOT, HOWEVER, SEE ESTABLISHMENT GROUP SECRETARIAT STAFF TO ITSELF PERFORM ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND PROJECTIONS.

4. SECRETARIAT INVITATION (REF A) IS ADDRESSED TO ALL COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN MEAT.
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DEPARTMENT SEES NO RPT NO OBJECTION TO PARTICIPATION BY ANY NON-GATT COUNTRY OR BY NGOS AT WORKING LEVEL MEETINGS, BUT WILLING CONSIDER VIEWS OTHER MEMBERS. INGERSOLL

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